The Suffering
CASE
Of the PEOPLE commonly Called
QUAKERS,
Relating to *OATHES* and *SWEARING*, *Humbly Offered.*

IT is not unknown to this Nation, that ever ſince we were a *People*, it hath been our *Principle* not to Swear, make or take Oathes, which He who is the ſearcher of all Hearts knows, is no other than a Caſe of pure Conſcience, in tender Obedience to the Mind of *Our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt*, as we are fully perſwaded, according as many Eminent Martyrs, and Men of Wiſdom and Renown were who Teſtified againſt Oathes and Swearing in the Goſpel-Day, and not any Obſtinacy, Diſaffection or Worldly Intereſt whatſoever on our parts: We being really Willing and Deſirous to Anſwer the Juſt and Good Ends of Law and Government, as a peaceable People fearing God, and for this *Cauſe* of not *Swearing* we have been expoſed to great *Sufferings* and Inconveniences in our Perſons and Eſtates, by tedious Impriſonments, and Diſabled from Receiving *Our due Debts*, or defending *Our Juſt Titles and Properties*; not ſuffered to give Evidence in Courts of *Judicature* at Common or Civil Law, nor to Anſwer in Chancery or Exchequer, prove Wills and Teſtaments, or take Adminiſtrations, or to proceed in our Trades at Cuſtom-Houſe, or be admitted to our Lands, or Truſted in our Duties and Services in Courts Leet, and Courts Baron, but great Advantage is taken againſt us, becauſe we ſo fear an Oath, as that we Dare not Swear: For which cauſe alſo our *Children* and *Young Men* are not Allowed their Freedoms in *Cities or Corporations*, when they have Faithfully ſerved out their Apprentiſhips. Nor admitted to give our Voices in Elections of Magiſtrates, and Parliament Members in divers Places, tho known to have Right thereunto as Free-holders, *&c.*

WHEREFORE *Our Requeſt is, That in all Caſes where OATHES are Impoſed, and Swearing Required, Our Word, that is, our Solemn Affirmation or Denial as in the fear and preſence of God may be accepted inſtead of an OATH, for which we Humbly Offer, and freely ſubmit, that if any under the ſame Profeſſion among us, break their Word, or be found falſe in ſuch their Affirmation or Denial, or guilty of Falſhood in any Unſworn Teſtimony, Evidence, or Anſwers, That then ſuch Penalty be inflicted on the Perſon ſo Offending, as Law and Juſtice Require in Caſe of Falſe Swearing or Perjury.*

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